

## SOME SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURE

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1. It is God's word to us - His message to us, and we are responsible to obey it. He wrote it in language we can understand. It would not be fair otherwise.
2. As a result, we take every word, properly translated from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, in its ordinary and usual meaning - unless there is strong reason to do otherwise. We should not spiritualize it.
3. No Scripture should be isolated from other passages of Scripture to arrive at a meaning. Scripture does not contradict itself. Much misunderstanding results if doctrine is based on an isolated passage.
4. The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years, and some Scripture once applicable no longer applies. E.g., the sacrifices of Leviticus are no longer incumbent on us today. This principle of progression is important in interpreting Scripture.
5. The literature of the Bible has a number of forms and figures of speech. We note them in our interpretation, e.g., poetry and praise, parables, metaphor and simile, etc.
6. Some passages of Scripture need a knowledge of previous Scripture in order to properly interpret them.

Cp. we learn to count, then to add and subtract, multiply and divide, then algebra and then trigonometry.

A knowledge of the Law in the Old Testament comes before the study of Galatians. The knowledge of much Scripture comes before interpreting the Book of Revelation.

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7. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to properly interpret Scripture.

1 Cor. 2:13 - "... not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches ...."

Unsaved man can know much about the Bible, but a believer has the needed help of the Holy Spirit in Bible study.

Note: There are additional rules of interpretation which mainly grow out of the use of the above suggestions. Enjoy your study!

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